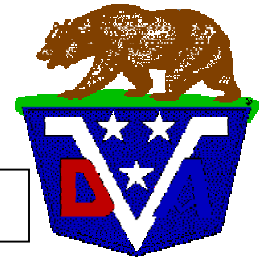


California Department of Veterans Affairs

Gray Davis, Governor
K. Maurice Johannessen, Secretary



CAL-VET LOANS – VETERANS HOMES – VETERANS SERVICES – WOMEN VETERANS
VETERANS CEMETERIES AND MEMORIALS – VETS LICENSE PLATES

NEWS RELEASE

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Yountville Veterans Home Celebrates Completion of Holderman Hospital Renovation Project

SACRAMENTO, CA. October 29, 2003 – Residents, staff, and administration of the Yountville Veterans Home, along with officials from the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA) gathered today for a ceremony highlighting the opening of a new recreation/therapy/dinning area at Holderman Hospital and officially draw to a close the Holderman Hospital Renovation Project.

K. Maurice Johannessen, Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, cut the ribbon at today's ceremony commenting, "As we officially close the books on the renovation era of Holderman Hospital, we can now look forward to uninterrupted use of this fine healthcare facility for many years to come." The remodeled area of Holderman will hold it's first event for the residents this Friday with their annual Halloween party.

This newly renovated 7,000 square feet area will serve the Hospital as a multi-purpose dinning/recreation/ therapy room. The former dinning area received a complete floor to ceiling renovation including lighting, flooring, electrical, fire alarm, heating, air conditioning, and complete compliance with the American Disabilities Act (ADA). Movable partitions were also installed to allow the room to be divided in three sections for multi-use simultaneously. The renovation started in September of 2002 at a cost of \$2 million.

"This is a milestone at the Yountville Veterans Home," commented Secretary Johannessen. "The complete renovation of Holderman Hospital has been an undertaking requiring great patience by the Department, the administration, the staff of the Home, and the residents themselves. The CDVA is dedicated to providing world-class service for all our veterans here at Yountville, as well as Barstow and Chula Vista."

The Holderman Hospital Renovation Project began in 1987 for a facility constructed in 1931. After the addition of a new acute care wing in 1986, renovations began on wings A, B, C, D, E, and the kitchen. The sixteen-year project officially came to a close with the opening of this final space at the facility.

The completion of this renovation project is not the end of improvements at the Yountville Veterans Home. Recently, the Department received notification from the Federal VA for conditional approval of over \$13.5 million for the renovation of Roosevelt Hall into the first dedicated dementia/Alzheimer's unit, an electrical system renovation, and a water storage/transmission line renovation. Work on these projects is expected to begin in the spring of 2004.

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Note to editors: This news release and previous CDVA news releases are available on our website at www.cdva.ca.gov and via e-mail from andrew.kotch@cdva.ca.gov or jaimeteaga@cdva.ca.gov